QFX10000 Switches

On QFX10000 switches, the buffer size is the amount of time in milliseconds of port bandwidth that a queue can use to continue to transmit packets during periods of congestion, before the buffer runs out and packets begin to drop.

The switch can use up to 100 ms total (combined) buffer space for all queues on a port. A buffer-size configured as one percent is equal to 1 ms of buffer usage. A buffer-size of 15 percent (the default value for the best effort and network control queues) is equal to 15 ms of buffer usage.

The total buffer size of the switch is 4 GB. A 40-Gigabit port can use up to 500 MB of buffer space, which is equivalent to 100 ms of port bandwidth on a 40-Gigabit port. A 10-Gigabit port can use up to 125 MB of buffer space, which is equivalent to 100 ms of port bandwidth on a 10-Gigabit port. The total buffer sizes of the eight output queues on a port cannot exceed 100 percent, which is equal to the full 100 ms total buffer available to a port. The maximum amount of buffer space any queue can use is also 100 ms (which equates to a 100 percent buffer-size configuration), but if one queue uses all of the buffer, then no other queue receives buffer space.

There is no minimum buffer allocation, so you can set the buffer-size to zero (0) for a queue. However, we recommend that on queues on which you enable PFC to support lossless transport, you allocate a minimum of 5 ms (a minimum buffer-size of 5 percent). The two default lossless queues, fcoe and no-loss, have buffer-size default values of 35 ms (35 percent).

Queue buffer allocation is dynamic, shared among ports as needed. However, a queue cannot use more than its configured amount of buffer space. For example, if you are using the default CoS configuration, the best-effort queue receives a maximum of 15 ms of buffer space because the default transmit rate for the best-effort queue is 15 percent.

If a switch experiences congestion, queues continue to receives their full buffer allocation until 90 percent of the 4 GB buffer space is consumed. When 90 percent of the buffer space is in use, the amount of buffer space per port, per queue, is reduced in proportion to the configured buffer size for each queue. As the percentage of consumed buffer space rises above 90 percent, the amount of buffer space per port, per queue, continues to be reduced.

On 40-Gigabit ports, because the total buffer is 4 GB and the maximum buffer a port can use is 500 MB, up to seven 40-Gigabit ports can consume their full 100 ms allocation of buffer space. However, if an eighth 40-Gigabit port requires the full 500 MB of buffer space, then the buffer allocations are proportionally reduced because the buffer consumption is above 90 percent.

On 10-Gigabit ports, because the total buffer is 4 GB and the maximum buffer a port can use is 125 MB, up to 28 10-Gigabit ports can consume their full 100 ms

allocation of buffer space. However, if a 29th 10-Gigabit port requires the full 125 MB of buffer space, then the buffer allocations are proportionally reduced because the buffer consumption is above 90 percent.

Default

The default behavior of the differs on different switches.

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If you do not configure buffer-size and you do not explicitly configure a queue scheduler, the default buffer-size is the default transmit rate of the queue. If you explicitly configure a queue scheduler, the default buffer allocations are not used. If you explicitly configure a queue scheduler, configure the buffer-size for each queue in the scheduler, keeping in mind that the total buffer-size of the queues cannot exceed 100 percent (100 ms).